

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 EB-11

STR-08 SP-03 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CEA-02 SWF-02

COME-00 PRS-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /124 W

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O R 172045Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6099

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2730

PASS AMBASSADOR EBERLE - STR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, ETRO, OVIP (EBERLE)

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON MTN--EBERLE VISIT TO ARGENTINA

REF: (A)A BUENOS AIRES 2700

(B) STATE 076664

SUMMARY: FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMALLY REQUESTS PLANS FOR EBERLE VISIT BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR 24-48 HOURS, STATING UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS AND WITHOUT ASSURANCES EBERLE GROUP CAN RESOLVE ONE OR MORE IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES, NO MEMBER OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INCLUDING SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS TETTAMANTI, WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EBERLE GROUP. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS INTERNAL USG CONSULTATION TO LEVEL SECRETARY OF STATE PLUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS NOW IN WASHINGTON AND CANCELLATION OF EBERLE VISIT TO ARGENTINA UNLESS REVIEW INDICATES RESULTS OF VISIT IN ARGENTINA CAN BE POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBGFFS, INCLUDING DCM, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S

UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BECKMANN, AT NOON, APRIL 17, IN LIEU OF MEETING WITH TETTAMANTI AS INDICATED PARA 4, REF A. TETTAMANTI WAS NOT PRESENT. BECKMANN INFORMALLY TOLD US HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM TETTAMANTI THAT UNLESS CURRENT SITUATION MODIFIED BY EVENTS IN WASHINGTON AND EBERLE GROUP PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DEPTH AND MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES, NO MEMBER OF ECONOMIC TEAM UNDER GELBARD WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE WITH EBERLE GROUP.

2. BECKMANN INDICATED HE WAS AWARE OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND GABRIEL MARTINEZ WHO, UNDER BECKMANN, IS LEADER OF ARGENTINA'S GATT NEGOTIATING TEAM. HE SEEMED NOT FULLY CONVERSANT WITH SUBSTANCE AND OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. BECKMANN FURTHER STATED HE HAS SPOKEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES BY TELEPHONE CONCERNING EBERLE VISIT. HE INDICATED VIGNES WISHES GOA TO RECEIVE EBERLE GROUP AND HOPES VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, BECKMANN REQUESTED FORWARD PLANNING FOR EBERLE VISIT IN ARGENTINA BE SUSPENDED FOR 24-48 HOURS UNTIL BOTH SIDES COULD ASSESS ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING APRIL 17 MFM MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND ITS IMPACT ON PROPOSED EBERLE VISIT. HE STATED THAT WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD MAKE SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS TO RECEIVE AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH EBERLE GROUP, IT APPEARED THESE COULD NOT BE EXTREMELY USEFUL SINCE MOST FACETS OF PROPOSED AGENDA (REF B) HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH US OFFICIALS RECENTLY IN QUITO. HE AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT TO HAVE EBERLE GROUP CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS ONLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, WITHOUT MEMBERS OF GELBARD'S ECONOMIC TEAM, WOULD RAISE LEVEL OF NEWSPAPER SPECULATION AND COMMENT ON US/ARG RELATIONS TO A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE LEVEL.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES SITUATION REQUIRES CONSULTATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND HIGHEST STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON ADVISABILITY OF CONTINUING PLAN TO VISIT ARGENTINA. ALSO SUGGEST DISCUSSION SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR GABRIEL MARTINEZ.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT UNLESS PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IS TO BE CHANGED FAVORABLY BY US DECISIONS REGARDING US FIRMS INVOLVED IN CUBAN/ARG TRADE ON OR BEFORE ARRIVAL EBERLE IN BUENOS AIRES
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OR, ALTERNATIVELY, AMBASSADOR EBERLE IS ABLE TO MEET OTHER ARGENTINE DEMANDS IN BILATERAL ISSUES SEEN AS IMPORTANT TO GOA (READ GELBARD), VISIT TO ARGENTINA RUNS GREAT RISK OF BEING USED TO INFLAME ANTI-US SENTIMENTS.

5. IN APRIL 16 MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, TETTAMANTI WAS ASKED WHAT BILATERAL ISSUES OUTSIDE OF CUBAN TRADE HE CONSIDERED THAT AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND HIS TEAM SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS.

HE REPLIED THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A US DECISION CONCERNING ITS DEADINESS TO LOWER SANITARY RESTRICTIONS AND ACCEPT FRESH AND CHILLED ARGENTINE MEAT AND/OR US READINESS TO SUPPORT ARGENTINA'S PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN POLICY OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES WITHIN INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD BE EXAMPLES OF OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES THE RESOLUTION OF WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY AND MAKE WORTHWHILE AND SUCCESSFUL A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE.

6. TO SUM UP, GELBARD IS OBSESSED WITH SELLING HIS POINT ON US SUBSIDIARIES IN ARG/CUBA TRADE AND GELBARD, HIS ASSOCIATES AND SUBORDINATES, ARE CONDITIONING THEIR RECEPTION OF AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S GROUP UPON A PRIOR MAJOR CONCESSION BY USG TO ONE OR MORE OF GOA'S RECENTLY RAISED ECONOMIC/POLITICAL ISSUES. WITHOUT SUCH MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS, AND RELATIVE SATISFACTION OF GOA, VISIT WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL AND WILL BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE, BOTH IN TERMS OF GENERAL BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS THEREOF. IN ABSENCE OF USG DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON NEXT FEW DAYS, SUBSTANTIALLY SATISFACTORY TO GOA, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT PRUDENT COURSE IS FOR EBERLE ITINERARY TO BE MODIFIED TO OMIT STOP IN BUENOS AIRES. EXPLAINING OMISION ARGENTINA FROM ITINERARY WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT NOT AS DIFFICULT AS DEALING WITH VISIT UNDER UNSATISFACTORY CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

7. EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF R
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